

[4th March 1925]

had the approval of the various Local Governments? I am asking whether the Madras Government has been consulted in this matter and what their opinion was about it."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am not quite sure. My impression is that Sir Charles Innes stated that the scheme for taking over the District Board Railways had been accepted in certain cases and not by all Local Governments. We have been consulted on the general principle."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether they really objected to the Tanjore District Board Railway being taken over (it is a very paying line) by the Railway Board when the Government made such a proposal?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid I have nothing to add to what I have already said."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am content to draw the inference."

Civil Justice.

Reduction of court fees, etc.

* 304 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to say if the Government have any intention of bringing amending Bills in the near future to reduce the recently enhanced court fees and general stamp charges and if so, when and to what effect?

A.—There is no such intention at present.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know whether there is any proposal to reduce the tax at least by one pie? I want to draw the attention of the Government to the course of the general debate on budget discussion. Last year the income under court fees was 32 lakhs. This year it is 88 lakhs."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am afraid there is no immediate prospect of reduction."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I ask whether it depends upon financial considerations?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Upon an examination of the figures which have been made just now?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know when those figures will be published?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"As soon as the figures are ready I shall take the opportunity to answer any questions or make a statement."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I request the hon. the Law Member to note that the phrase 'as soon as' is a very vague one and see whether he cannot expedite that enquiry as early as possible?"

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“As soon as judicial figures are available enabling us to see what the actual revenue for the current year is.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“All that I request is that instead of ‘as soon as possible’ it may be expedited ‘as early as possible’.”

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—“May I ask the Government whether they recognize the necessity for publishing these figures in the near future?”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“The answer to that will depend very much upon the result of the investigation.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“May I draw the attention of the Government to the various statements made by them that the anticipated increase under the head of court fees seems not to have been as great as it ought to have been?”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“The question divides itself into two. There are a certain class of suits such as declaratory suits in which as a matter of policy Government will not go back on the enhancement. So far as certain other classes of suits are concerned, the question of reduction will depend, for instance, in the case of money suits, upon an examination of the figures and whether the institution of suits has been affected and in this class of cases the Government will consider the matter seriously.”

Irrigation.

Irrigation tank in Maluvambattu, Tiruvannamalai taluk.

* 305 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether Maluvambattu, a hamlet of Kil Vanakkambadi village in Tiruvannamalai taluk, North Arcot district, was uninhabited until eight years back;

(b) whether it is a fact that some twenty families of Muhammadans and Hindus settled there some eight years back and had the waste lands assigned for cultivation;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is an irrigation tank with broken bund within the said village limits;

(d) whether it is a fact that the tank is included within the reserved forest;

(e) whether it is a fact that one Asankhan and other ryots of the village petitioned the District Collector, the Board of Revenue and the hon. the Revenue Member regarding the repair of the said irrigation tank;

(f) whether it is a fact that the Forest department have no objection to repair the tank and the use of its water for irrigation purposes;

(g) whether it is a fact that more than 30 acres are cultivated ‘wet’ under the tank even at present, the cultivation at present being with the help of small wells;

(h) whether it is a fact that the Rathapuram tank is supplied with water from Aliar river through a feeder-channel;